



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20180308 007a

Date: March 7, 2018

Subject: Protecting Roy G. Guerrero Park from Private Development

Motion by: Wendy Gordon, PhD

Seconded by: Peggy Maceo

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS, protected green spaces are a signature element of Austin; and

WHEREAS, parkland enhances the quality of life of Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, Austin is looking to acquire more open space in the next bond election; and

WHEREAS, some parkland is used to protect the natural environment and enhance and maintain the natural features, flora and fauna of that park and allow residents to have managed access to that natural area; and

WHEREAS, Roy G. Guerrero Park includes a former wild bird reserve, which is still home to more species of bird than any other central city parkland; and

WHEREAS, Roy G. Guerrero Park is also home to a great variety of plant and animal life indigenous to the area; and

WHEREAS, the construction and management of any major league sports venue with the related destruction of the natural habitat, vehicular traffic and large number of people involved is not compatible with the nature of the Roy G. Guerrero Park's unique natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Protection Department is currently working on channel stabilization to address serious erosion problems that are occurring at the park and is working on a design for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge that washed out, and this project totals millions of federal and local dollars; and

WHEREAS, in light of the significant investment being made to stabilize portions of the park and to replace the pedestrian bridge, it makes no sense to add a development - like a soccer stadium - to this park, which could exacerbate the existing problems and adversely affect the planned repairs to those problems; and

WHEREAS, the erosion issues are the result of past, faulty engineering projects, these issues should not be used as an excuse to privatize a public park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Commission recommends that the Austin City Council direct the City Manager:

To remove Roy G. Guerrero Park as a possible location for a Major League Soccer stadium; and

To consider additional funding sources including bonds, to repair and maintain Roy G. Guerrero Park; and

The Environmental Commission further recommends that future projects that propose use of parkland for non-public parks purposes be reviewed by the Austin Parks and Recreation Board and, if appropriate, the Environmental Commission, prior to formal review and discussion by the City Council to ensure that the Council has all pertinent information at hand to make their decision.

VOTE 7-0

For: Perales, B. Smith, Thompson, Neely, Maceo, Guerrero and Gordon

Against: None

Abstain: H. Smith and Coyne

Recuse: None

Absent: Creel and Istvan

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Perales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The name "Marisa" is written in a larger, more prominent script than "Perales".

Marisa Perales, Environmental Commission Chair